

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Consideration of the above-identified patent application in view of the amendments above and the remarks following is respectfully requested.

Claims 1 and 2-17 remain in this application. Claims 1 and 11 have been amended. Claim 2 has been canceled.

The claims before the Examiner are directed towards a method and a device for simulating the firing of a weapon, in particular weapons having "flexible neck" seekers having sensors with a wide field of view obtained by varying the orientation of a sensor relative to the missile axis where there is not necessarily a connection between the line of sight of the launcher and that of the seeker head.

Amendment to the Claims

Applicant has amended claim by adding the limitations of claim 2 into claim 1. Consequently, claim 2 has been canceled.

Applicant has, in order to clarify beyond any shadow of a doubt as to how the present invention achieves the stated goal, also amended claim 1 by the addition of the phrase *"...whereby analysis by said image processor of light produced by a said infra-red lamp and detected by said sensor indicates at which target from amongst said plurality of targets said housing has been, thus accurately simulating the aiming step of the firing of the weapon."*

Applicant has, in order to clarify beyond any shadow of a doubt as to how the present invention achieves the stated goal, also amended claim 11 by the addition of the phrase *"...whereby said identifying at which target from amongst said plurality of targets said housing has been aimed is an accurate simulation of the aiming step of firing of the weapon."*

Eichweber (U.S. 4,793,811)

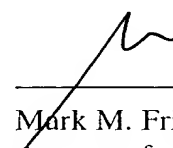
The European Examiner has cited Eichweber (U.S. 4,793,811) against the unamended claim 1 in the European patent application parallel to the above-mentioned application. The

European Examiner alleges that Eichweber discloses a simulator for simulating the firing of a weapon at one of a plurality of targets, each target having a respective shape, where the simulator comprises a sensor operationally connected to a housing for acquiring a plurality of images of at least one of the targets and an image processor for detecting and analyzing changes among said images and for initiating control signals based on the analysis. These are the limitations found in original independent claim 1.

However, original independent claim 11 and dependent claim 2 introduce as new features that each target is provided with an infra-red lamp that is alternatively i) activated by one of the control signals to flash at a unique, respective frequency and ii) deactivated by another of the control signals; and a mechanism for transmitting the control signals to the lamps. These new features are neither known nor hinted at in Eichweber nor in any other document found.

In view of the above remarks and amendments, Applicant respectfully submits that amended independent claims 1 (integrating the limitations of claim 2) and 11, and claims 3-10 and 11-17 dependent therefrom are patentable. Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Respectfully Submitted,



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